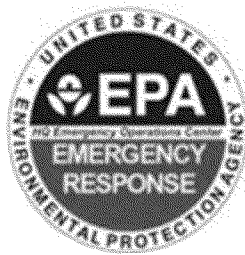


**To:** Eoc, Epahq[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]  
**From:** Eoc, Epahq  
**Sent:** Wed 3/25/2015 2:54:25 PM  
**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Update 2, Region 2, Methyl Bromide Chemical Exposure, Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI.

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**EOC Spot Report: Update 2, Region 2, Methyl Bromide Chemical Exposure, Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI.**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report as of:** 12:00 EDT, March 25, 2015

**Overview:** On 03/20 at approximately 1640 EDT, R2 was notified of a potential chemical substance exposure that occurred in St. John, USVI.

A family of four was staying at Sirenusa Condominium Resort, in Cruz Bay, St. John when they

started showing neurological symptoms of chemical exposure. Conversations between the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) with the exterminator for the condominium confirmed that methyl bromide was applied to the condominium unit in question on 3/18. On 3/20 their symptoms worsened to the point they required medical care at the in the St. Thomas Hospital where all four were hospitalized. On 03/24, the affected family members were transferred to stateside hospitals for further treatment.

The methyl bromide was applied in a lower unit and the fumes seemingly moved upwards into the unit above which was occupied by the affected family. Methyl bromide is prohibited for residential use by EPA in 2005, although some exemptions for agricultural use are allowed until pre-existing supplies are exhausted..

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** Virgin Island Government officials, ATSDR, DPNR, the local hospital, St. John Fire Department, St. John PD, and Terminex representatives are coordinating on this incident.

**EPA Actions:** A R2 deployed to St. John on 03/21 to assist DPNR in the investigation of the incident and visited the condominium on 3/23. On 3/24 EPA conducted indoor and outdoor air sampling and monitoring of the unit where the family was staying at and is currently awaiting results on the samples. On 03/25 EPA plans to conduct air sampling, air monitoring, and collect wipe samples on the unit that underwent the fumigation and is suspected to be the source of the methyl bromide.

Personnel on-site as of 3-24 includes 2 R2 OSCs, 1 ERT, 1 CID, 2 START contractors, 2 SERAS contractors.

Region 2 is obtaining technical assistance from HQ Office of Pesticide Programs.

**Media Interest: None**

**The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provided updates as needed.**

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John Irizarry

Watch Officer

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